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Title: Need to accord special status to Gulbarga, Raichur, Bidar and Koppal regions of Karnataka by amending article 371 of the Constitution with a view to remove regional imbalances in the regions.

SHRI D.B. CHANDRE GOWDA (BANGALORE NORTH): There are 175 Talukas in the State of Karnataka out of which 144 Talukas are backward. Most of these Talukas, numbering about 59, are in Northern Karnataka. Gulbarga is one of the most backward districts in Karnataka. Crops failure is rampant in northern Karnataka. Water is scarce. Farmers are burdened with debt. In this regard, the State Government of Karnataka constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. D.M. Nanjundappa to make recommendations to remove the regional imbalances in Karnataka especially in northern Karnataka. The Committee found that Gulbarga, Raichur, Bidar and Koppal areas forming part of Hyderabad- Karnataka region were the most backward and made several recommendations to remove backwardness and for removal of regional imbalances. The State is doing its best to address the problems of backwardness and regional imbalances, but the resources of the State alone cannot solve this gigantic problem. State needs assistance from the Central Government. There has been a long pending demand of the State of Karnataka for amending Article 371 of the Constitution and providing special status to Hyderabad Karnataka region, namely Gulbarga, Raichur, Bidar and Koppal. Hence, I urge upon the Central Government to take necessary steps to provide special status to Hyderabad Karnataka region by amending Article 371 of the Constitution as has been done in cases of several States like Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Manipur and Nagaland.